

of *N. Beckwithii*, if not a distinct  
species. Please let me know what  
you think of it.

Your monograph of our *Theropod-*  
*diaceae* gives *Rubrica multifida* as  
"rarely occurring in some of the At-  
lantic States". If I am not mis-  
taken, Mrs. Ames sends it from Penn-  
sylv. Probably you also have it from  
California.

Very truly  
yours,  
Wm. H. Curtis

Wilmington June 28<sup>th</sup> 1846

My dear Sir,

The last word I  
had from Mr. Commins I under-  
stood him that he did not de-  
sire a set of *Palmen* & *Cal* plants;  
but I will make further inquiry  
and let you know.

I wrote to Dr. Gray  
about some *Viola* intimations  
that there might be an undescribed  
species among them. Since then,  
principally in view of the extreme  
variation in a number of the species  
of this genus, I don't know but  
that I have given the idea up  
so far as it concerns a distinct  
species. But there still seem to be  
differences worth noting.

In the first place I send No. 1.  
to show, that having neither *V.*  
*Beckwithii* nor *V. Sheltonii* as I  
now suppose them to be, I was  
somewhat misled by the evident slip  
of the pencil in Dr. Gray's label  
with Lemmon's plant.

Mrs. Ames and Mrs. Austin have  
just sent me sets of specimens, a  
many which are a number of  
different species of *Viola*. Both  
send me unmistakable *V. Sheltonii*  
with yellow flowers and smooth sty-  
mus. Mrs. Ames also sends the  
No. 3 of this enclosure which I  
take to be the true *V. Beckwithii*.  
Please notice how exactly it tallies  
with the original description and  
figure in Pac. R.R. Surv. 2, p. 119 t. 1.  
The leaves are fleshy, decurrent on the  
petiole, the flowers are broad, nearly

circular in outline, and while the  
upper petals are deep purple the  
lower are not "yellow with purple  
veins" (Bot. Cal.) but blue with yellow  
claws,

No. 1 and 2 seem to  
be the original of your description  
in Bot. Cal.: of *V. Beckwithii*. But  
it seems to me to differ considerably  
from the original description and  
plate. The leaves are more marked-  
ly bi-tri-ternate, more finely divided,  
less (if at all) fleshy, perhaps not  
at all decurrent on the petiole. The  
petals are longer, narrower, and the  
lower ones of a clear white so far  
as I can judge, with, to be sure, yel-  
low claws & purple veins. The plant  
can certainly be distinguished from  
No. 3 as far as it can be seen and  
seems to me to be a marked variety